



*Success of
Exchange Programs at
Ahmad bin Majid (ABM) Private
School, Oman 2010 - 2016*



ABM is active in 3 exchanges

- **ABM-SABEL Cultural exchange**
 - ABM-Sabel Students-Exchange programme 2010 – 2016
 - Total of 244 families from both schools 2010 – 2016
- **Language learning with German Oman Association**
 - Two students from Germany 2013 and 2016
 - Four families
- **ABM-Montessori Internship program**
 - 2013 in Muscat : 4 families participated
 - 2017 in Munich: expected 8 families to participate

Beginning of the friendship

- 2009 the Chairman of Ahmad bin Majid School, Mr. Najim Al-Timami agreed to a proposal from Mr. Georg Popp the German Omani Association Secretary and Mr. Juma Al-Maskari , Founding member of German Oman Association to start a Student Exchange with Sabel School of Munich
- ABM leadership visited Sabel where they met with Sabel leadership and agreed on the basics of the exchange programme.

ABM-Sabel Students Exchange 2010-2016

- **Who benefits?**

- the youth
- Families
- ABM and Sabel Schools
- Germany and Oman



- **Focus areas**

- cultural understanding
- Collaboration (Youths, Families, Schools)
- Tolerance
- Understanding
- Co-existence
- Leadership
- Global Perspectives

First Visit 2010

- In March 2010, ABM invited 14 students and 4 educators to Muscat to stay with families from the School for 14 days.
- This was a huge achievement and memorable to families of both schools. It sparked interest in students and families from both schools to host and visit

2010 in pictures



2012: Motivating the exchange group

The Chairman, Mr. Najim Al-Timami addressing the 2012 exchange group at ABM library. Together with him were:

- The German ambassador to Oman 2012 H.E Angelika Storz-Chakarji
- The ABM CEO, Mrs. Fathiya Al-Busaidi



Project learning

Collaboration to identify problem, analyse solutions, anticipate challenges, evaluate solutions and Communicate their findings



Exchange students doing their Project work with ICT.
Collaboration, Creativity & Fun



Teambuilding

Balancing seriousness with fun

Group at Nadi al-Tayran, Muscat



First Complete Exchange: 2011 and 2012

- **2011 March in Muscat**

- ABM hosts 4 students and 3 educators from Sabel for 12 days
- Group at Kalboh, in Muscat



First Complete Exchange: 2011-12

- **2011 June in Munich (Full exchange)**
 - Sabel hosts 18 students & 2 educators from ABM for 14 days
 - ABM showcases Omani culture in Munich



2012 Launch of Exchange website , Muscat

- **2012: Coinciding with the visit to ABM by Sabel, Oct/Nov 2012, on 4th Nov at ABM and Sabel Schools launched the website for the students' exchange programme www.studentexchange-oman.com**

Present were

- The German ambassador 2012 H.E. Hans-Christian von Reibnitz
- H.H Ambassador Nizar Fahar Al Said
- Mr. Pfeilzer, Chairma Sabel Schools, Munich
- Mr. Najim Al-Timami, Chairman Ahamd bin Majid School
- Mr. Georg Popp, Secretary General German Oman Association
- Mr. Juma Al-Maskari, Founding member, German Oman Association
- Exchange Students 2012
- Exchange families 2012
- Exchange Organising teams ABM & Sabel

2012 Launch of Exchange website



From left:

Mr. Pfeilzer

Mr. Bruno Kaiser

Mr. G. Popp

German embassy staff

H.H. Ambassador Nizar Al Saïd

Mr. Najim Al Timami

*2012 Exchange
Students using their
accounts to access the
exchange website*



Omani Cultural Exhibitions in Munich



ABM organised three public exhibitions on Omani culture in Munich between 2012 and 2014



2014 Munich Exchange



Tour of the Munich Hellabrunn Zoo

Hiking the Spitzingsee mountain



Growing in confidence 2013 - 2015

- In 2013 ABM and German Omani Association jointly organize the Muscat exchange with German Omani Association managing logistics and ABM organizing the day to day programme
- In 2015 ABM took a big step in the exchange program when it managed the logistics and the day program: cultural, touristic places, transportation, insurances, sports, excursions etc.

How the exchange works

Families are the backbone of the exchange

- The visiting student's family entrusts the wellbeing of their son to the hosting family creating a lifelong friendship
- ABM and Sabel families with the support from ABM & Sabel schools work towards celebrating similarities, appreciating diversities in culture, traditions, school norms, issues in educational contexts, global perspectives and global citizenship

Families in the exchange - Munich



Families in Muscat

Our strong points

- Trust in each other to
 - manages the program professionally and ethically
 - Hosting school manages all finances
 - Conscious of visiting families culture and sensitivities
- The schools and exchange leadership teams ensure
 - Students know each other's culture and traditions
 - Respect for school values and norms
 - Respect for both families
 - Collaboration by Educators
- Students required to display
 - Tolerance, Understanding, Co-existence
 - Collaboration, Leadership, Critical thinking
 - Communication skills and Reflection

224 Families from 2010 - 2016

	Year	Host	Students		Total	Educators		Days	Dates
			ABM	Sabel		ABM	Sabel		
1	2010	Muscat	12	12	24	4	3	12	21 st Mar – 1 st Apr
2	2011	Munich	18	18	36	2	4	12	21 st Jun - 7 th Jul
3	2012	Muscat	14	14	28	4	3	15	3 rd Nov – 16 th Nov
4	2013	Munich	18	18	36	2	4	15	17 th Jun – 1 st Jul
5	2013	Muscat	11	11	22	4	3	13	27 th Oct – 8 th Nov
6	2014	Munich	11	11	22	2	4	16	19 th Sep – 3 rd Oct
7	2015	Muscat	14	14	28	4	3	11	25 th Oct – 6 th Nov
8	2016	Munich	11	11	22	2	4	14	23 rd Sep – 6 th Oct

Sabel in Muscat

- **Project learning**
 - Global issues
 - Creative Arts, Presentations and Exhibitions
 - Social work
 - Environmental projects
- **Educational trips and excursions**
 - Cultural, Historical and Touristic sites
 - Falaj, Forts and Castles
 - Boat building Sites, Environmental projects sites
 - Souqs
 - Industrial Zones
 - Desert Camp
- **Team-building**
 - Desert Camps
 - Water sports & Ball games
 - Project work



ABM in Munich

- **Project learning**
 - Global issues
 - Creative Arts, Presentations and Exhibitions
 - Social work
 - Environmental activities: Tour of recycling plant
- **,Educational trips and excursions**
 - Cultural, Historical and Touristic sites
 - Allianz Arena, Museum, Zoo,
 - Tour of Munich, Garmische, Chimsee
 - Spitzsingsee, Neurschistein
 - Salzburg, Austria
- **Team-building**
 - Mountain hiking
 - Ball games
 - Project work

ABM - Montessori of Munich Internship Programme 2013 & 2017

Nature of ABM-Montessori Internship Programme

- Targets: Students between 16-18
- Internship Period : 3 - 4 weeks
- Host school finds internship workplaces
- Internship Areas : Agriculture, Administration, Social work, Arts

2013 First Internship in Muscat

- Germany 2 female students for internship in school administration
- 2 ABM female students hosted the 2 interns from Montessori, Munich
- **Interns experience authentic Omani lifestyle with ABM families**
- **2017 ABM will send 2-4 interns to Montessori, Munich in July 2017**

ABM - German Omani Association Partnership

- **Partnership aims to encourage:**
 - ❖ Learning the Arabic language
 - ❖ Understanding the Omani culture
 - ❖ Tolerance, Understanding and Coexistence (TUC)
- **How it works**
 - ❖ Visiting student experiences authentic Arabic/German life with host family for 4 weeks or more
- **To date, ABM has accepted 2 German students**
 - ❖ 2009 ABM Chairman accepts guardianship for Thomas from German family. This exchange sowed the seeds for the broader exchange
 - ❖ 2013 March: Hanz, a student attended ABM school and stayed with Omani family
 - ❖ 2016 March: a student from Staatliche Realschule Bad Tolz attended ABM school and stayed with ABM Omani family

Jaiffer and Maxmillian

Muscat - 25th Oct – 5th Nov 2015

Munich - 20th July – 15th Aug 2016

- A one-to-one student exchange at the understanding of GOA and ABM school. More personalised and closer family interaction.
- Jaiffer Al-Omairi hosted Maxmillian Holzinger for about 4 weeks from 25th Oct – 5th Nov 2015
- Activities included closer understanding of traditional Omani family life , Learning Arabic at home and at school, interacting with extended family, visiting the villages and touristic sites
- The Holzinger hosted the Al-Omairi family at their home in Munich for about 4 weeks from 20th July – 15th Aug 2016.
- Activities included closer understanding of traditional German family life , Learning German at home, interacting with extended family, visiting the villages and touristic sites.

Family friendship after the exchange

- While most families continue to communicate after the exchange, some families decide to visit or invite one another to their countries:
 1. Family of the ABM Chairman has been in contact with Thomas' family since the first exchange in 2009
 2. June 2014 , family of Wadha Al-Hooti visited family of Cadric Bitenc in Munich for few days
 3. 2015 , Family of Alexis visited family of Muscat for about a week
 4. 2016 , Family of Omar Shabibi hosted the family of Valentin Strabo in Muscat for 10 days
 5. July 2016, family of Jaiffar Al-Omairi visited family of Maxmillian in Munich for 4 weeks

People supporting the Exchange

German – Omani Association

- Bruno Kaiser, President of German Omani Association
- Georg Popp, The Secretary General, German Omani Association
- Mr. Juma Al-Maskari, Founding Member, German Omani Association
- **German Embassy, Muscat**
 - The German ambassador to Oman and her staff 2012-2014
 - The German ambassador to Oman and his staff 2014 to present
- Ministry of Cultural and Heritage, Oman
- Ministry of Tourism, Oman
- Families of exchange students of Ahmad bin Majid Private School, Oman
- Families of exchange students of Sabel Modern School, German
- Management and Staff of Ahmad bin Majid Private School, Muscat
- Management and Staff of Sabel Modern School, Munich

Danke
Shukran
Thank you